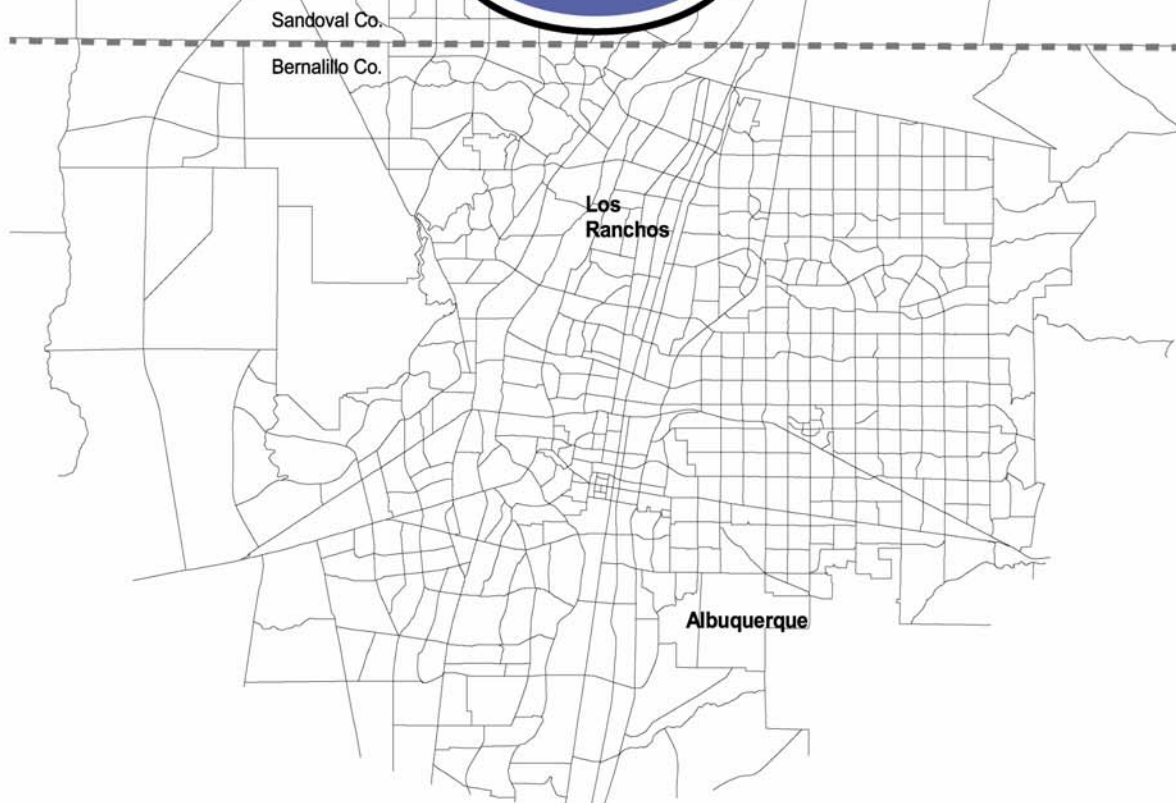




Mid-Region Council of Governments

**2000
Socioeconomic Characteristics
by Data Analysis Subzones
for the
Mid-Region of New Mexico**

S-03-02



Mid-Region Council of Governments of New Mexico

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2000 SOCIOECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS

By Data Analysis Subzones

For the Mid-Region of New Mexico

**Consisting of Bernalillo, Sandoval, Torrance, Valencia, and Southern Santa Fe
Counties in New Mexico**

April 2003

**Mid-Region Council of Governments
317 Commercial NE, Suite 104, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87102**

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2000 SOCIOECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS

PART 1

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

OVERVIEW

The Mid-Region Council of Governments (MRCOG) is the regional planning agency for the Mid-Region of New Mexico consisting of Bernalillo, Sandoval, Torrance, Valencia, and southern Santa Fe Counties. Figure 1 displays the Mid-Region of New Mexico. This document presents an overview of the growth trends for population and employment for the Mid-Region and a data set for the Data Analysis Subzones (DASZ).

The Mid-Region is divided into 891 DASZs that are inclusive of the Region. DASZ boundaries do not cross county boundaries. In addition, DASZs are in almost all cases subdivisions of census tracts. The primary purpose of DASZs is to serve as traffic analysis zones for the MRCOG transportation model; however, the data at DASZ level has applications for a wide variety of planning programs. MRCOG has traditionally made the DASZ data available for public use. A 2000 data set with selected census and employment variables is provided in Appendix B of this document. This data set may be downloaded as an excel file. Census data for counties is also available at this web site as well as in publications available from MRCOG.

In 2000, the U.S. Census counted 738,714 residents of the Mid-Region. MRCOG, relying on data from the New Mexico Department of Labor, the 2000 Census results, and other sources estimated that at the time of the Census (April 2000) there were 392,435 jobs located in the Region. Population and employment are discussed separately in the following two sections. Subsequent sections deal with other topics as well as population and employment together.

POPULATION and HOUSING

The Region has been growing for the past half century (Table 1). The average annual growth rates are displayed in Figure 2. Growth was most rapid during the decades of the 1950's and 1970's. The growth rate for the region has averaged about 2 percent per year for the past 20 years. There have, of course, been periods of more rapid growth and periods of no growth during that 20 year period. Over the past decade, about two-thirds of the growth occurred in the first half of the decade as the Region grew at an average annual rate of 2.7 percent. The end of the decade of the 1990's was one of relatively slow growth as the Region grew at an average annual rate of 1.2 percent. The construction of new single family homes which boomed at the end of the decade masked the slowing population growth. The population growth trend compared to the trend for construction of new homes will be discussed later in this section.

Figure 1

Mid-Region
Council of Governments

MRCOG Region

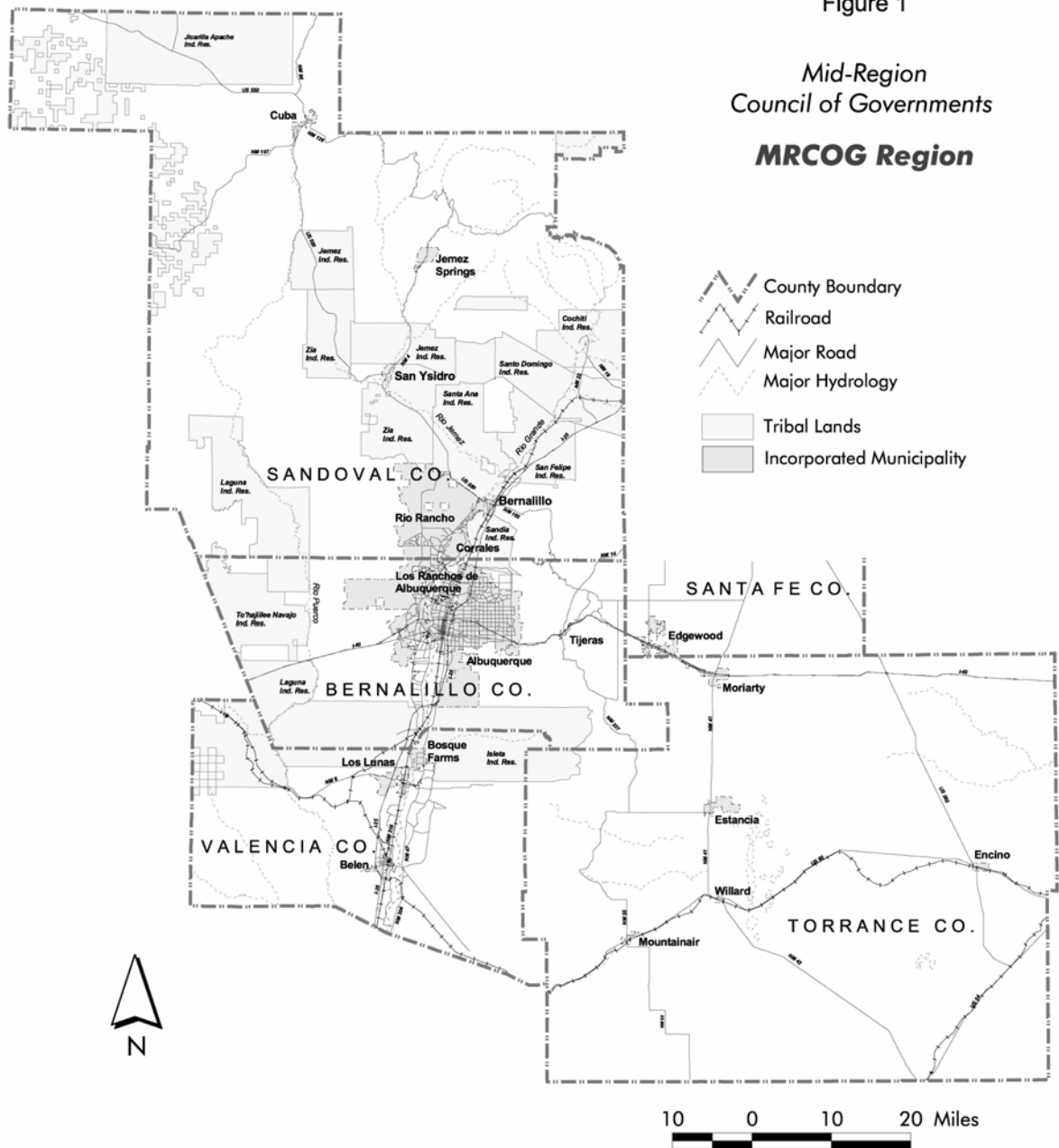
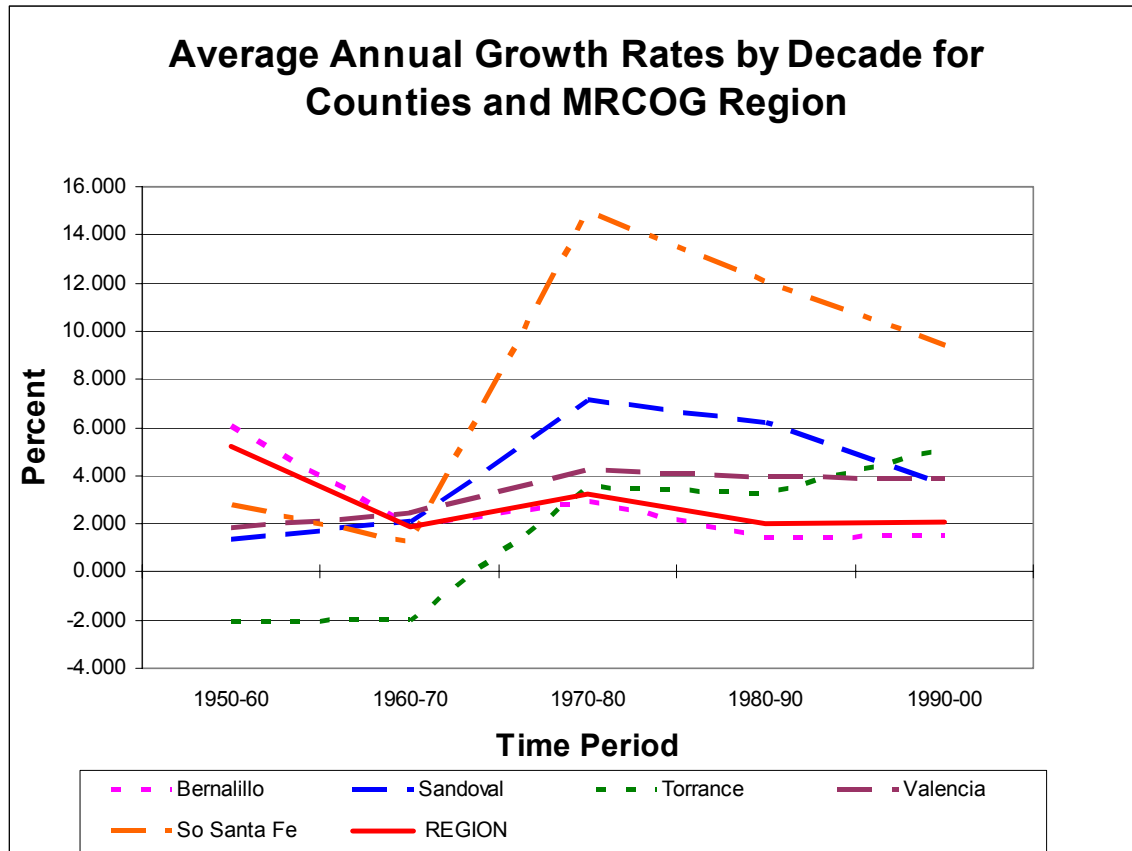


Table 1
Population Growth by County 1950 to 2000, MRCOG Region

Year	Bernalillo County	Sandoval County	Torrance County	Valencia County	Southern Santa Fe	MRCOG Region
1950	145,673	12,438	8,012	13,530	200	179,853
1960	262,199	14,201	6,497	16,146	263	299,306
1970	315,774	17,492	5,290	20,451	296	359,303
1980	419,700	34,799	7,491	30,769	1,185	493,944
1990	480,577	63,319	10,285	45,235	3,700	603,116
2000	556,678	89,908	16,911	66,152	9,065	738,714

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Figure 2



Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census

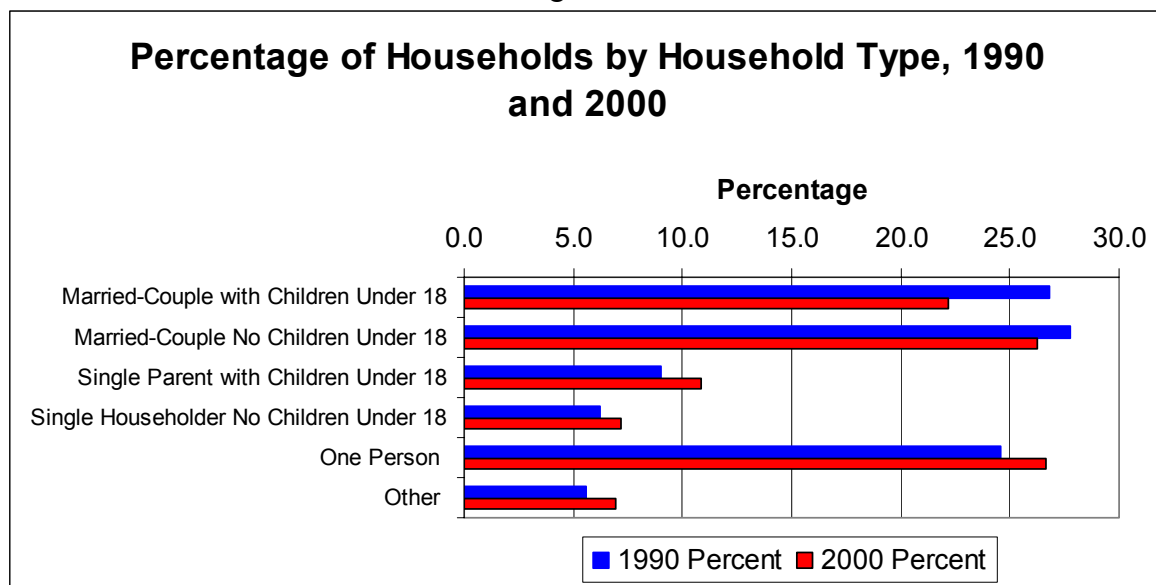
Prior to 1970, Bernalillo County had the highest average annual growth rate. After 1970, Sandoval County became the county with the highest average annual growth rate in the region, although southern Santa Fe County as a partial county had a higher rate of growth. Rio Rancho grew rapidly which drove the growth rate in Sandoval County. In the past decade, Torrance County has replaced Sandoval as the County with the highest average growth rate in the Region. The two areas with the most rapid rates of

growth during the decade of the 1990's were both east of the mountains in Torrance County and southern Santa Fe County.

The numerical increases in population are still greatest in Bernalillo County followed by Sandoval County (Table 1). The examination of growth rates provides an indication where growth may be creating the most impact on the local community and the infrastructure needed to support that growth. Schools is one such area, Moriarty School District covers most of the growing areas of Torrance and southern Santa Fe Counties. Over the past decade, the Moriarty School District enrollment increased by 55 percent.

Housing has increased at a faster rate than population. Since 1990, the number of occupied housing units in the Region has increased 25.5 percent compared to an increase in population of 22.5 percent. The differential increase is explained by a decline in the average household size from 2.62 to 2.55 persons per household. A major factor depressing the average household size was the changing composition of households in the Region displayed in Figure 3.

Figure 3



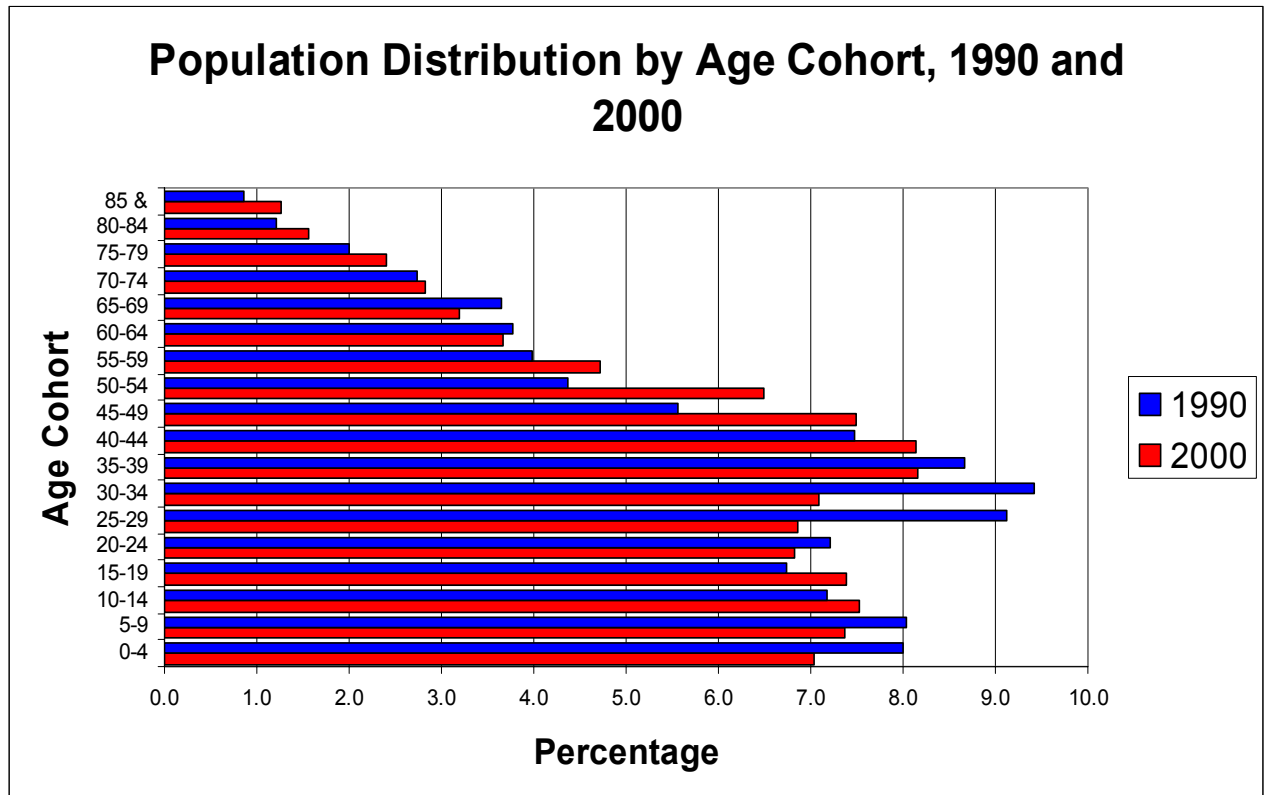
Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census

There were increases in the number of one-person households and decreases in married-couple households. In addition, the number of households with children declined from 36 percent of all households to 33 percent. The proportion of the population under 18 declined from 27 percent to 26 percent. There was a general aging of the population which appears to have affected the increase in one-person households as many of these households are made up of persons over age 65. The median age increased from 32.0 in 1990 to 34.9 in 2000.

The aging of the population over the past decade is illustrated in Figure 4. The percentage of the population in all but two of the cohorts for persons over 40 was greater

in 2000 than in 1990; the exceptions being the two cohorts for the ages 60 through 69. The percentage of the population in all but two of the cohorts for persons under 40 was less in 2000 than in 1990; the exceptions being the two cohorts spanning the ages of 10 to 19.

Figure 4



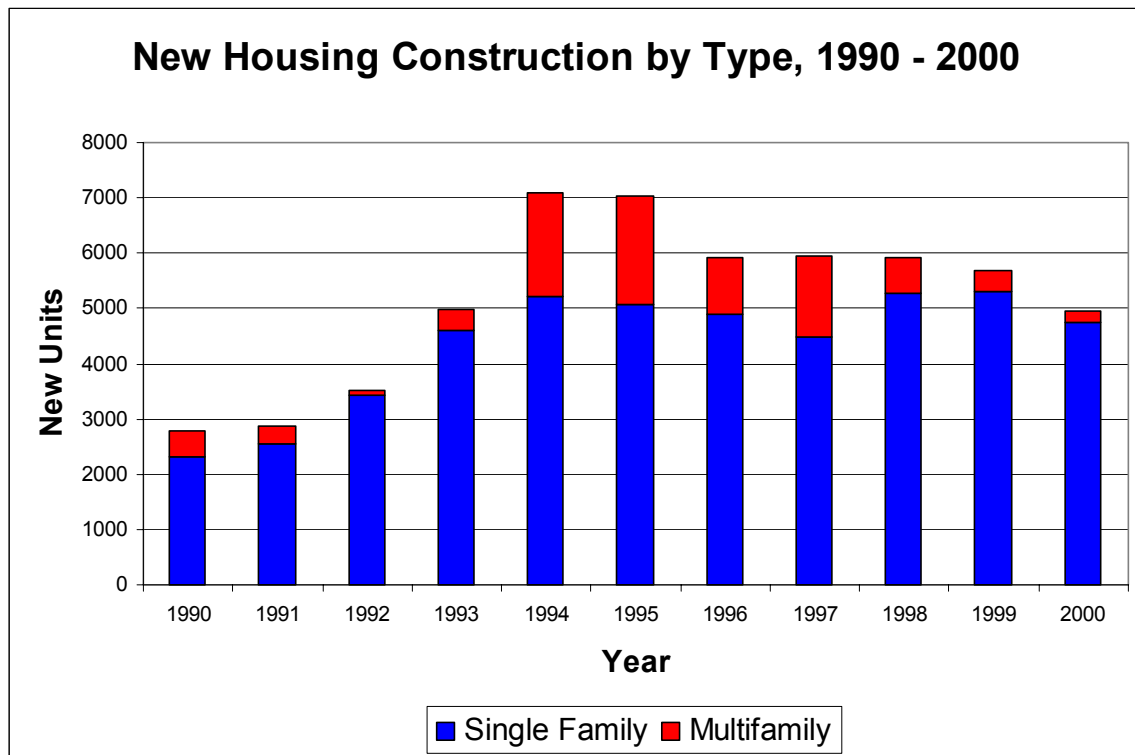
Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census

In addition to the demographic shifts that produced smaller households so that the number of households increased faster than the population, there have also been economic factors which have affected the market supplying the housing demand. Many point to the decline in the mortgage rate which has made single family housing affordable for many more households. New population combined with an apparent pent-up demand for single family housing created an increase in the construction of single family housing as the decade progressed. Much of the pent-up demand for single family housing appears to have come from persons previously dwelling in multifamily units. During the decade, the number of single family housing units (including mobile and manufactured housing) increased by 27.8 percent while multifamily units increased by only 15.1 percent.

Figure 5 displays the trends for new construction of single family and multifamily units. Mobile homes and manufactured housing are omitted from Figure 5 as the data for these housing types are more difficult to track. Considering only the new construction built on site, sometimes called “stick-built”, construction increased until the peak year of 1994. After 1995, as population growth slowed the total number of constructed units

declined. The construction of single family units, however, has remained high at about 5,000 new units per year; this is the demand most driven by low mortgage interest rates.

Figure 5



Source: MRCOG

The number of new single family housing that is being constructed combined with mobile and manufactured housing on lots has had a considerable impact on the absorption of land in the Region. MRCOG estimated that approximately the number of acres used for residential purposes in the region has increased from about 95,000 acres in 1990 to approximately 125,000 acres in 2000. This is an increase of about 30 percent, more than the percentage increase of either population or housing. Much of the increase in land absorbed was due to housing in rural areas where homes were constructed or located (mobile homes and manufactured housing) on large lots. Approximately 20 percent of the new housing in the Region was constructed or located in rural or semi-rural areas where lots tend to be larger.

EMPLOYMENT

Employment is tabulated in two distinct ways: a count of jobs and a count of employed persons. A tabulation of jobs counts employment by the location of the job. Tabulations of employed persons tend to count persons at their residences and therefore are usually tabulation of employed residents. The two tabulations of employment will not be same, although at the regional level there should be similarities and the differences are logical. The differences are due to several factors: 1) Some employed persons hold

multiple jobs; 2) Persons do not live and work in the same place, regardless of the geography there will be commuters into and out of an area for work; 3) Employment varies by time so the tabulation will vary depending on the month of the tabulation or if the tabulation is an annual average; and 4) Definitions of a job or of an employed person. The first two factors should be apparent and not require explanation. Regarding the timing of the tabulation, the Census Bureau tabulates employment from their April 1 decennial survey. MRCOG, to the extent possible has attempted to adjust all of the employment measures in this report to the Census timeframe.

Definitions of employment can vary. In some cases, agricultural workers are omitted from the tabulation. Sometimes, military personnel or self-employed persons are omitted. For this report, MRCOG used an inclusive definition based on the Census Bureau definition. Employed persons were civilian or military persons age 16 and over who were working at least 15 hours a week in a paid job or as an unpaid worker in a family business. Jobs included all positions on business, government, or nonprofit payrolls including farms plus self-employment, military enlistment, and unpaid positions in family businesses. A self-employed person was counted if their primary source of work income was from self-employment, part-time self-employment jobs by a person normally employed by another person or organization were not counted as these were considered to generally be occasional jobs. A self-employed person was counted as only one job even if the person had more than one business.

Employment by place of work will be discussed first. Employed residents will be discussed as the second topic in this section. Following the section on employed residents, commuting patterns will be discussed but keep in mind that the work site information in the discussion of commuters is still a count of workers and not a count of total jobs.

Jobs: Employment within the Region increased 33 percent from 1990 to 2000. This was a more rapid rate of increase than either population or households. In 1990, the ratio of jobs to households was 1.30. By 2000, the ratio of jobs to households was 1.38. Table 2 displays the employment (work location) by county and for the Region since 1980. This is estimated data since it includes estimates for self-employment, agricultural employment, and other jobs that are not required to be reported to the Department of Labor.

Table 2
Employment Growth by County 1980 – 2000, MRCOG Region

Year	Bernalillo County	Sandoval County	Torrance County	Valencia County	Southern Santa Fe	MRCOG Region
1980	209,290	5,126	1,189	7,132	149	222,886
1990	271,670	11,185	2,060	9,124	294	294,333
2000	344,911	27,447	3,955	14,829	1,293	392,435

Sources: New Mexico Department of Labor, U.S. Bureau of Census, and MRCOG

Among the counties, Sandoval has had the most rapid rate of employment growth, increasing its employment more than five-fold over the past 20 years. Torrance has more than tripled its employment and Valencia County has more than doubled its employment over the past 20 years. In the past decade, employment growth has been especially strong in the Edgewood area which is seen in the data for southern Santa Fe County. Most of the employment has remained concentrated in Bernalillo County. Table 3 displays the proportion of the regional employment by county and illustrates the decline in the proportion of the employment located in Bernalillo County.

Table 3
Percentage of Regional Employment by County, 1980 – 2000

Year	Bernalillo County	Sandoval County	Torrance County	Valencia County	Southern Santa Fe	MRCOG Region
1980	93.90	2.30	0.53	3.20	0.07	100
1990	92.30	3.80	0.70	3.10	0.10	100
2000	87.89	6.99	1.01	3.78	0.33	100

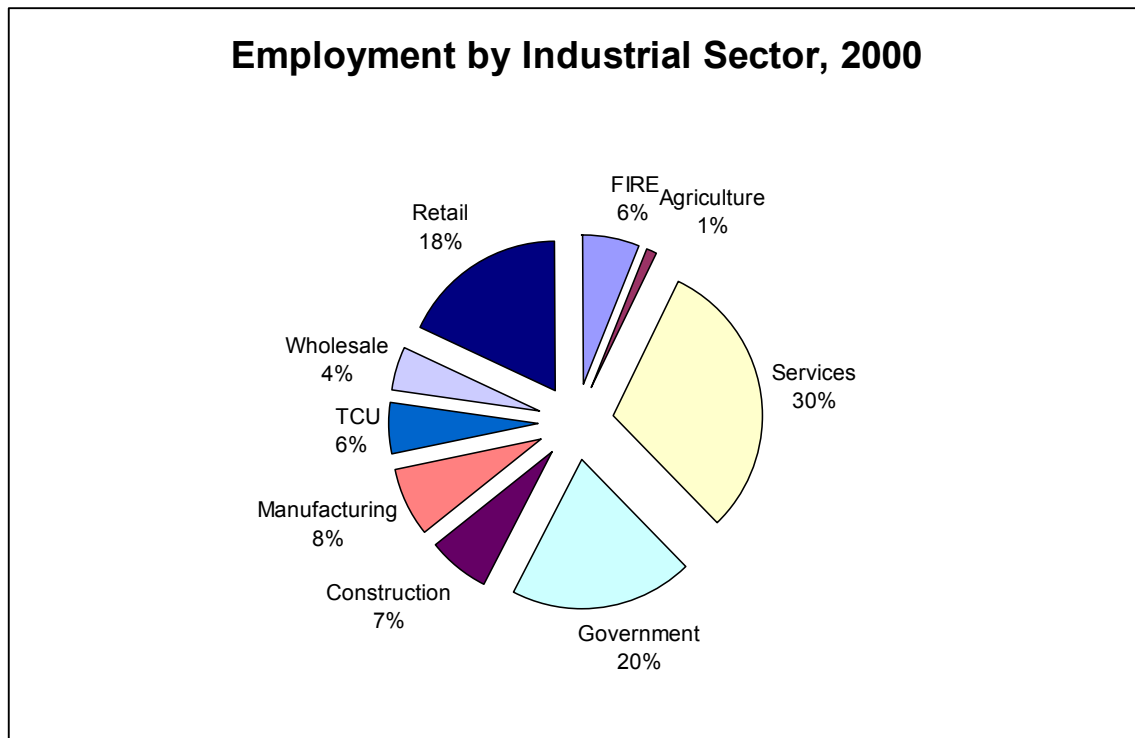
Sources: New Mexico Department of Labor and MRCOG

Bernalillo County has declined from the location of 94 percent of the employment in the Region to 88 percent while Sandoval County has increased to 7 percent. The decline for Bernalillo County has been particularly steep over the past decade; however, most of the employment proportion decline occurred in the first half of the decade. Likewise, the sharp increase in Sandoval County also occurred in the first half of the 1990's and was largely attributable to major new employment and expansions in the City of Rio Rancho. During the first half of the 1990's, several major employers located or expanded their operation in Rio Rancho. A fourth of the job growth in Sandoval County during the 1990's can be directly attributed to a single employer that decided to expand its Rio Rancho plant.

Employment (jobs) can be categorized into industrial sectors based on the Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) system. The 2000 employment distribution is presented in Figure 6. The largest sector is services which accounts for nearly a third of the jobs. The services sector includes research and development firms such as Sandia National Laboratories, hospitals and medical services, business services, legal services, lodging, and entertainment. Much of the Regional economy is focused on industries that are categorized as services. The Albuquerque area is a center for electronic research and development activities; it is also a statewide center for medical and legal services.

Government and retail jobs each comprise about a fifth of the regional economy. Government includes public school and public university employees as well as military enlistment. The location of a major university (University of New Mexico) and an Air Force Base in this region results a very large government sector. Albuquerque is also a center for many Federal jobs that provide services to a large portion of New Mexico. It is noted that the retail sector includes eating and drinking establishments.

Figure 6



Sources: New Mexico Department of Labor and MRCOG

Notes: FIRE is Finance, Insurance, and Real Estate; TCU is Transportation, Communications, Utilities; Construction includes Mining.

Table 4
Employment by Industrial Sector by County and Region, 2000

Sector/County	Bernalillo County	Sandoval County	Torrance County	Valencia County	Southern Santa Fe	MRCOG Region
Agriculture	3,305	92	343	309	139	4,188
Construction	22,427	1,777	405	954	256	25,819
Manufacturing	21,436	6,691	144	1,434	15	29,720
TCU	18,691	2,103	424	1,107	159	22,484
Wholesale	16,483	570	115	264	83	17,515
Retail	61,964	4,911	753	3,482	289	71,399
FIRE	22,192	1,069	42	474	34	23,811
Services	111,734	5,687	586	2,220	125	120,352
Government	66,679	4,547	1,143	4,585	193	77,147
Total	344,911	27,447	3,955	14,829	1,293	392,435

Sources: New Mexico Department of Labor and MRCOG

Notes: FIRE is Finance, Insurance, and Real Estate; TCU is Transportation, Communications, Utilities; Construction includes Mining.

The distribution of jobs by industrial sector for counties is presented in Table 4. Bernalillo County has the overwhelming portion of the jobs in all of the sectors, but there are some noteworthy characteristics of the distribution. The largest sector in Sandoval

County is manufacturing, this probably relates to Sandoval County having the highest median household income in the Region.

Government is the largest sector in both Torrance and Valencia Counties. Much of the employment in these two counties could be classified as population serving employment. In both counties, public school districts are among the largest employers in the county. Government employment in Valencia County is further increased by the State corrections facilities.

Employment in southern Santa Fe County is also predominantly population serving. In this case, the largest sector is retail. In recent years, Edgewood has begun to develop as a retail center for the “tri-county” area east of the mountains.

Employed Residents: The 2000 Census reported an estimated 343,569 employed persons residing in the MRCOG Region. This was 60.8 percent of the persons age 16 and over. Interestingly, this was less than the 62.2 percent of persons age 16 and over that were employed in 1990. This is consistent with national data where the percentage of the 16 and over population that was employed had declined since 1990. After decades of increases in the percentage of adults that were employed, this decline is noteworthy.

The labor force participation rate, the percentage of persons age 16 and over that are employed or looking for work, is a standard measure for the work force. The participation rate for this region declined from 66.7 percent in 1990 to 64.5 percent in 2000. However, the decline was mostly among males as the female participation rate remained essentially the same declining only slightly from 58.6 percent to 58.4 percent in 2000. The male participation rate declined from 75.3 percent to 71.1 percent.

There has been an expectation that the participation rate would decline as the population became generally older, however, most did not expect to see the decline before 2010. It is possible that the surprise in the 2000 data was due not only to an older population as displayed in Figure 4 but also due to an economy that at the time of the 2000 Census had been booming for a number of years. Perhaps the state of the economy at the end of the decade allowed a number of people to retire early and leave the labor force, people who might otherwise have remained in the labor force.

Table 5 reports the labor force, employment, and unemployment. The increase in jobs in the counties outside of Bernalillo County appears to have had an impact on the unemployment rates; in 1990 and previous years, the unemployment rates in Torrance and Valencia Counties have been somewhat higher than in Bernalillo County. Although southern Santa Fe County is somewhat higher, the unemployment rates for all of the counties are somewhat close.

Labor force participation rates are provided in Figure 7; the rates are provided on the graph. There continues to be a major difference among the counties in the participation rates as well as major differences between male participation and female

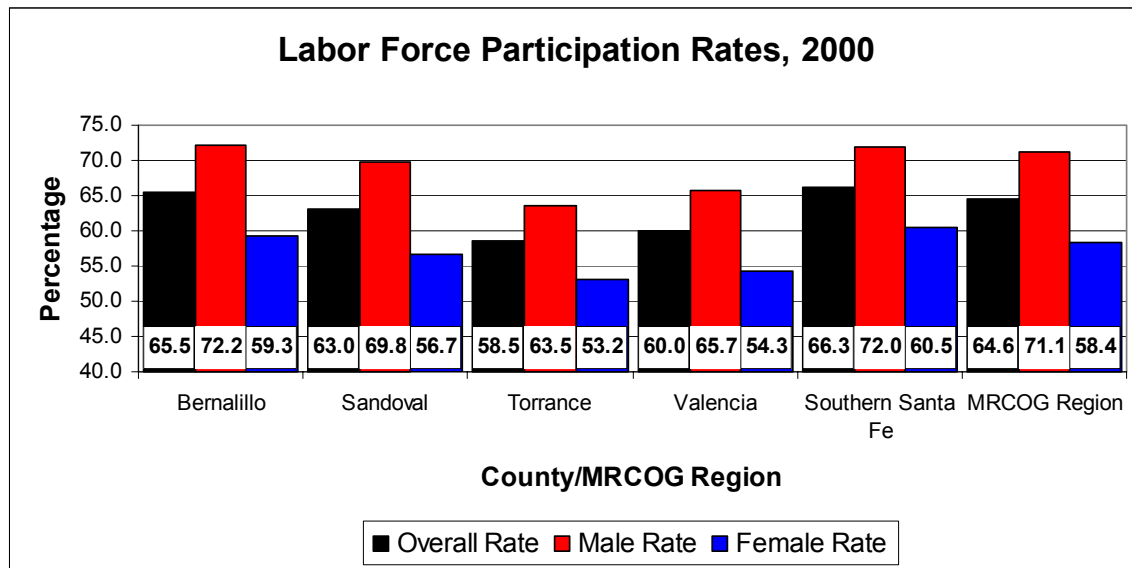
participation rates. The variation between male and female rates are consistent across county boundaries, the male rates are approximately 20 percent higher than the female rates in each county.

Table 5
Labor Force, Employed Persons, and Unemployment, 2000

Variable/County	Bernalillo County	Sandoval County	Torrance County	Valencia County	Southern Santa Fe	MRCOG Region
Population Age 16 and Over	431,799	66,064	12,351	48,376	6,515	565,105
Labor Force	282,693	41,599	7,229	29,021	4,322	364,864
Employed Persons	266,468	39,031	6,794	27,193	4,134	343,620
Armed Forces	3,880	161	8	130	51	4,230
Civilian Employed Persons	262,588	38,870	6,786	27,063	4,083	339,390
Unemployed Persons	16,225	2,568	435	1,828	188	21,244
Percent Unemployed	3.8	3.9	3.5	3.8	4.3	3.8

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census

Figure 7



Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census

An estimated 35,876 persons reported to the 2000 Census that their primary employment was self-employment. This does not include workers who may be supplementing their income with secondary self-employment. Likewise, many self-employed persons could have held part-time wage jobs. In 2000, approximately 10.6 percent of employed civilians were primarily engaged in self-employment.

COMMUTING TO WORK

Each decennial census collects data for the residential location of workers and the work site of the workers during the week prior to the census, this part of the census is

referred to as the journey-to-work section. Therefore, employed persons who were on leave from work the week prior to completing the census questionnaire were omitted from the journey-to-work portion of the census report. Since respondents were asked to report where they worked the week before the census, workers that were out of town on business would correctly report that out-of-town location. In this analysis, MRCOG has combined counties that have low estimates or are a long distance from the Region into an “other locations” category. About one percent of the responses were classified as “other locations” which is probably a reasonable portion of the workforce to be out-of-town for work reasons. The “other locations” values for Santa Fe County are higher since the table is primarily concerned with the counties that exchange workers with the MRCOG Region rather than other counties which may exchange workers with Santa Fe County.

Table 6 reports the county of work by the county of residence. This table displays the work locations for workers residing in this Region. Given that part of Santa Fe County is in this Region and there is considerable commuting between Santa Fe County and the counties of this Region, Santa Fe County is included in the table.

Table 6
Work Locations for Residents of MRCOG Region and Santa Fe County, 2000*

County of Work Place	County of Residence				
	Bernalillo County	Sandoval County	Torrance County	Valencia County	Santa Fe County
Bernalillo	243,949	19,875	2,578	12,996	3,698
Sandoval	9,280	15,598	67	502	151
Santa Fe	2,567	1,357	280	199	52,947
Torrance	366	19	3,415	30	318
Valencia	1,817	138	80	12,302	45
Cibola	322	21	27	107	18
Los Alamos	474	606	37	58	4,029
McKinley	123	92	0	14	0
Rio Arriba	125	84	4	11	1,417
Socorro	121	0	5	155	0
Other Locations	2,564	581	159	322	1,030
Total Workers--County of Residence	261,708	38,371	6,652	26,696	63,653

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census

*This table tabulates total workers. Total workers include civilians and armed forces personnel who were at work during the census reference week. The total number of workers is less than the total number of employed persons since employed persons includes persons who are employed but are on leave from work.

A majority of the workers in Sandoval and Valencia Counties commuted out of county for work. The commute destination was primarily Bernalillo County, 52 percent of workers residing in Sandoval and 49 percent of workers residing in Valencia worked in Bernalillo County during the reference week. In the case of Sandoval County, this was an improvement over 1990 data that reported 58 percent working in Bernalillo County. The addition of more than 16,000 jobs in Sandoval County during the past decade clearly had an impact on lessening the percentage of workers commuting to Bernalillo County; although the actual number of workers traveling to Bernalillo County increased by about

4,600. In Valencia County, however, both the number and the percentage of workers commuting out of the county increased. In 2000, about 4,800 more workers traveled from Valencia to Bernalillo County; an increase from 46 percent of Valencia workers to 49 percent.

Table 7 reports the county of residence for workers working in the MRCOG Region and Santa Fe County. This table provides a measure of workers commuting into this Region for work. The data in this table will be the same as in Table 6 for workers who have both ends of their work trip within the Region.

Table 7
County of Residence for Persons Working in the MRCOG Region and Santa Fe County, 2000*

County of Residence	County of Work Place				
	Bernalillo County	Sandoval County	Torrance County	Valencia County	Santa Fe County
Bernalillo	243,949	9,280	366	1,817	2,567
Sandoval	19,875	15,598	19	138	1,357
Santa Fe	3,698	151	318	45	52,947
Torrance	2,578	67	3,415	80	280
Valencia	12,996	502	30	12,302	199
Cibola	738	67	6	114	26
McKinley	395	27	8	10	4
Rio Arriba	145	69	6	5	3,281
San Juan	173	61	0	6	29
Socorro	439	20	7	542	45
Other Locations	3,076	223	163	73	3,339
Total Workers--County of Work Place	288,062	26,065	4,338	15,132	64,074

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census

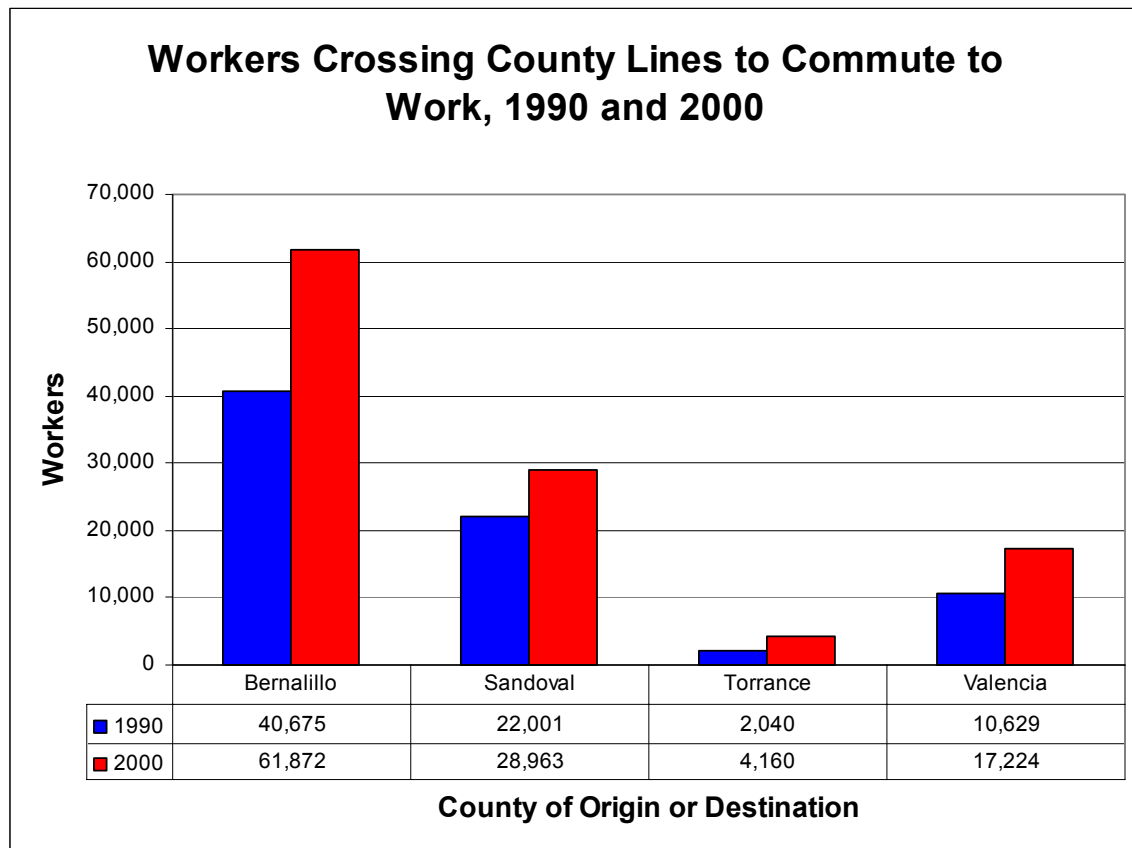
*This table tabulates total workers. Total workers include civilians and armed forces personnel who were at work during the census reference week. The total number of workers is less than the total employment since workers may hold more than one job.

If an assumption is made that the persons living or working in other locations, as reported on Tables 6 and 7, are not making daily commutes an estimate can be made of the number of persons who daily enter or leave the Region for work. An adjustment is made for Santa Fe County as part of Santa Fe County is within the Region. Given this assumption and adjustment, it is estimated that 6,500 workers commute out of the Region each day and 3,500 workers commute into the Region each day.

Within the Region, there is considerable commuting across county boundaries. In fact, commutes across county boundaries have increased considerably since 1990. For example, trips across the Bernalillo County line have increased 52 percent. Figure 8 displays the number of commutes that crossed county boundaries where either the residence or the work place was within the Region. The data displays the number of workers that cross a specific county boundary. The counties can be compared but cannot be added as commutes between two counties in the region would appear in the totals for

both counties. For this Figure, data for “other locations” were included as commutes across county boundaries; therefore, the data should not be interpreted as daily commutes. Santa Fe County is omitted from this Figure since the majority of the County is outside the Region. In 2000, an estimated 2,979 workers residing in southern Santa Fe County crossed a county boundary to go to work, most crossing into Bernalillo County.

Figure 8



Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census

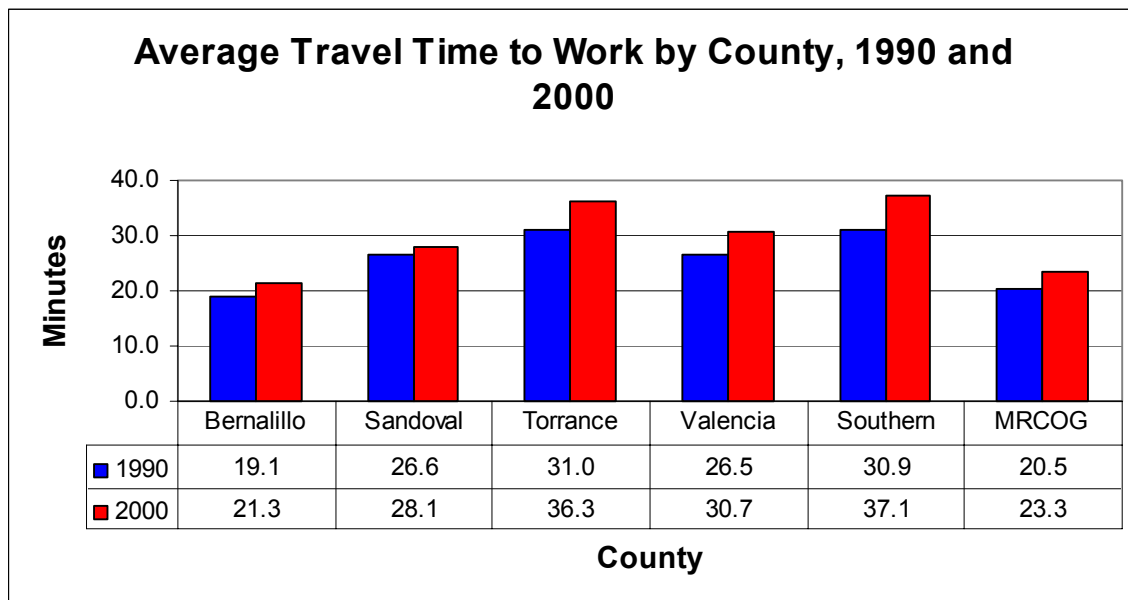
It is estimated that 99 percent of the commutes in Figure 8 are daily commutes. The increase in the number of workers crossing county boundaries would suggest an increase in travel time since 1990. Figure 9 reports the average (mean) travel time to work by county for 1990 and 2000.

Travel time is computed for the workers who did not work at home. The travel time to work increased in all counties but the increase was especially large for Torrance, Valencia and southern Santa Fe where the number and percentage of workers commuting to Bernalillo County increased.

Table 8 displays the means of travel to work by workers in 2000 by county and for the region. The 2000 data was very similar to the 1990 data indicating that the means of travel to work are at this time stable. Nearly 78 percent of the workers drove alone to

work, although they may have had other passengers in the car who were not workers such as children being dropped off at school. The census category for drove alone means there was only one worker in the vehicle. The longer commutes appear to encourage carpooling as 20 percent of Torrance County workers carpooled, 17 percent of southern Santa Fe County workers, and 16 percent of Valencia County workers. Torrance and southern Santa Fe County workers were also the most likely to work at home, the rates in both counties was approximately 5 percent. It is likely that the respondents who reported travel modes lumped together as “other means” were largely persons who were working out-of-town during the census reference week.

Figure 9



Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census

Table 8
Means of Transportation to Work by County and Region, 2000
For Workers Age 16 and Over

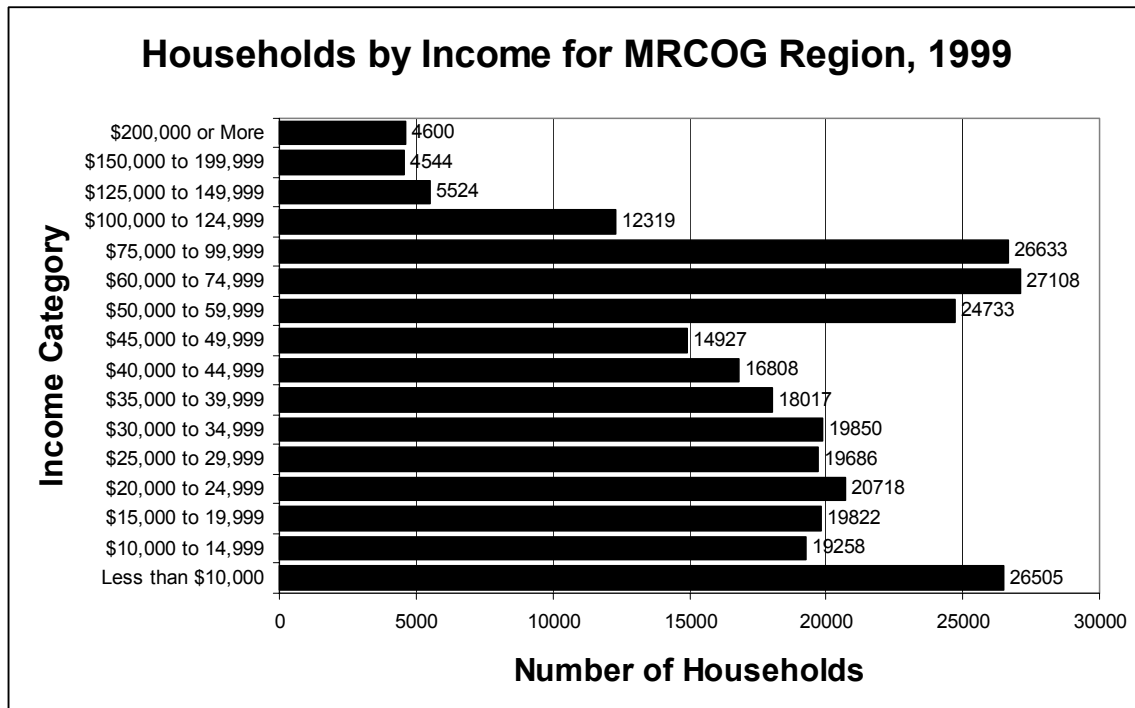
Variable/County	Bernalillo County	Sandoval County	Torrance County	Valencia County	Southern Santa Fe County	MRCOG Region	MRCOG Region Percentage
Total Workers	261,708	38,371	6,652	26,696	4,025	337,452	100.0
Drove Alone	202,555	30,654	4,648	20,630	3,036	261,523	77.5
Carpool	34,149	4,801	1,351	4,382	683	45,366	13.4
Public Transportation	3,866	173	20	47	6	4,112	1.2
Motorcycle	604	90	0	19	9	722	0.2
Bicycle	2,450	63	19	38	0	2,570	0.8
Walked	6,661	554	243	361	72	7,891	2.3
Other Means	2,008	378	39	181	10	2,616	0.8
Worked at Home	9,415	1,658	332	1,038	209	12,652	3.7

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

INCOME and POVERTY

The 2000 Census reported that the 1999 median household income for the Region was \$39,075. The median household income for the United States was \$41,985. The Regional median was 93 percent of the national median. Figure 10 displays the distribution of households by income category for the Region. The distribution reveals a bi-modal distribution in which the Region has a large number of poor households and a large number of moderately wealthy households.

Figure 10



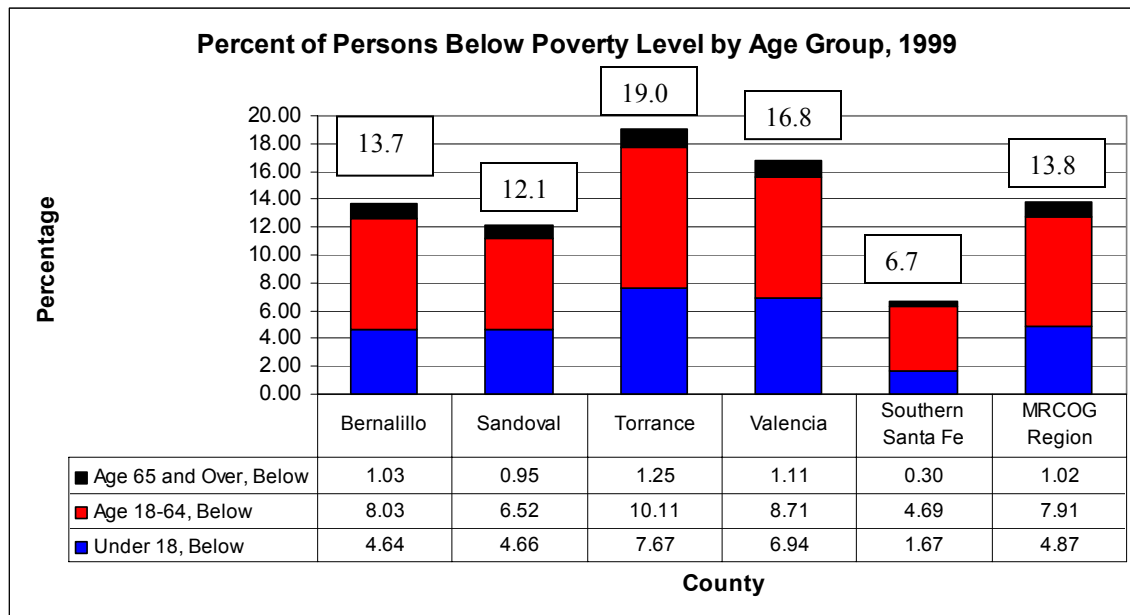
Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census

An estimate of persons in poverty was calculated based on reported income and household size compared to the Federal poverty level. In 1999, 13.8 percent of the regional population (population for whom poverty status was determined) were below the poverty level. This was somewhat worse than the nation which reported 12.4 percent below the poverty level. Poverty was especially severe among children, 18.4 percent of the persons age 18 and under were in households below the poverty level.

Figure 11 displays the percentage of the persons below the poverty level in each county as well as the Region. The column is divided into its age components. For example, 4.9 percent of the persons in the Region are both in poverty and under age 18. The total percentage for each county is shown in the box above the column. The majority of the persons in poverty are between ages 18 to 64. In each county except southern Santa Fe County, the percentage of the population under age 18 and in poverty is quite high. The percentage under 18 is especially a concern when it is compared to the

percentage of the total population that is under 18. In Bernalillo County the percentage of the total population under 18 is approximately 25 percent, in the other counties the percentage is about 30. In all counties a disproportionate number of persons under 18 are living in poverty.

Figure 11



Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

Note: Poverty status was not determined for institutionalized persons, people in military group quarters, students in college dormitories, or unrelated persons under age 15.

POPULATION and EMPLOYMENT by SUBAREA

To analyze and display data at a sub-county level, MRCOG has defined county subareas which are aggregations of DASZs. Figure 12 displays the geography for the 29 subareas in the MRCOG region. Population growth from 1990 to 2000 is displayed in Figure 13. Employment growth from 1990 to 2000 is presented in Figure 14.

As previously noted, there are several definitions for employment. MRCOG revised its definition in the mid-1990's when the new MRCOG transportation model was developed, calibrated, and brought on-line. The original 1990 DASZ data set that was presented in the 1990 report used a more limited definition of employment. To reasonably compute employment growth by subarea, MRCOG has adjusted the 1990 data to reflect the current MRCOG employment definition. The 1990 data presented in Figure 14 is adjusted employment so the same definition is used for both the 1990 and the 2000 data.

Figure 13 illustrates that the most growth occurred in subareas 26, 7, 5, 14, 10, and 1. In general these areas were Valencia County, the Albuquerque west mesa, the Albuquerque far northeast heights, and northern Rio Rancho. Moderate growth occurred

in subareas 2, 28, 29, and 23. Subarea 2 is southern Rio Rancho. Subareas 28, 29, and 23 comprise Torrance County, southern Santa Fe County, and the east mountains of Bernalillo County. From a regional perspective, the growth in these latter three subareas was moderate; however, in terms of the rural and small town nature of these subareas, the growth was very significant given that the combined population of the three subareas increased by 60 percent. Subareas 22, 16, 12, and 18 declined in population. Subarea 22, Kirtland Air Force Base, declined due to the demolition of a large number of housing units on the Base; construction of new housing units is slated to occur soon to replace some of the demolished units. Population decline in the other subareas was primarily the result of a declining household size coupled with the lack of new housing units. Subareas 16 and 18 are essentially built-out so that an increase in housing units is limited unless there were large-scale projects with redevelopment at higher density. Subarea 12 is the far north valley of Bernalillo County, in this subarea the land is essentially all in use for either urban uses or agricultural uses so that any population growth would likely come from the conversion of agricultural land.

The character of population growth portrayed by Figure 13 is one of significant development on the fringe and in selected rural areas. A close look at Figure 13 does reveal growth in some of the core urban areas such as subareas 15 and 17; this is evidence that infill and redevelopment is occurring. Infill and redevelopment projects, however, were generally small in scale compared to the large subdivision projects that have been occurring on the urban fringe.

Figure 14 displays the areas of employment growth. The most job growth occurred in subareas 13, 14, and 16; this growth was due to both the continuing development of the north I-25 corridor and the development of urban and suburban centers. A second tier of employment growth occurred in subareas 18, 2, 26, and 5. Growth in subarea 18 was primarily driven by the institutions in that subarea: UNM, TVI, and two major medical complexes. Growth in subareas 2, 26, and 5 was primarily driven by development occurring in Rio Rancho, Valencia County, and on the Albuquerque west mesa. Locally significant job growth occurred in subareas 1, 19, 7, 15, 12, 27, 8, 28, 10, 11, and 4. The large number of subareas experiencing significant employment growth is the result of two forces: 1) The location of population serving employment near population growth areas; and 2) The continuing trend for employment to disperse. Given the nature of the Region's economy which is dominated by service sector jobs, many companies have the option to locate anywhere within the Region where there are adequate transportation and utility facilities.

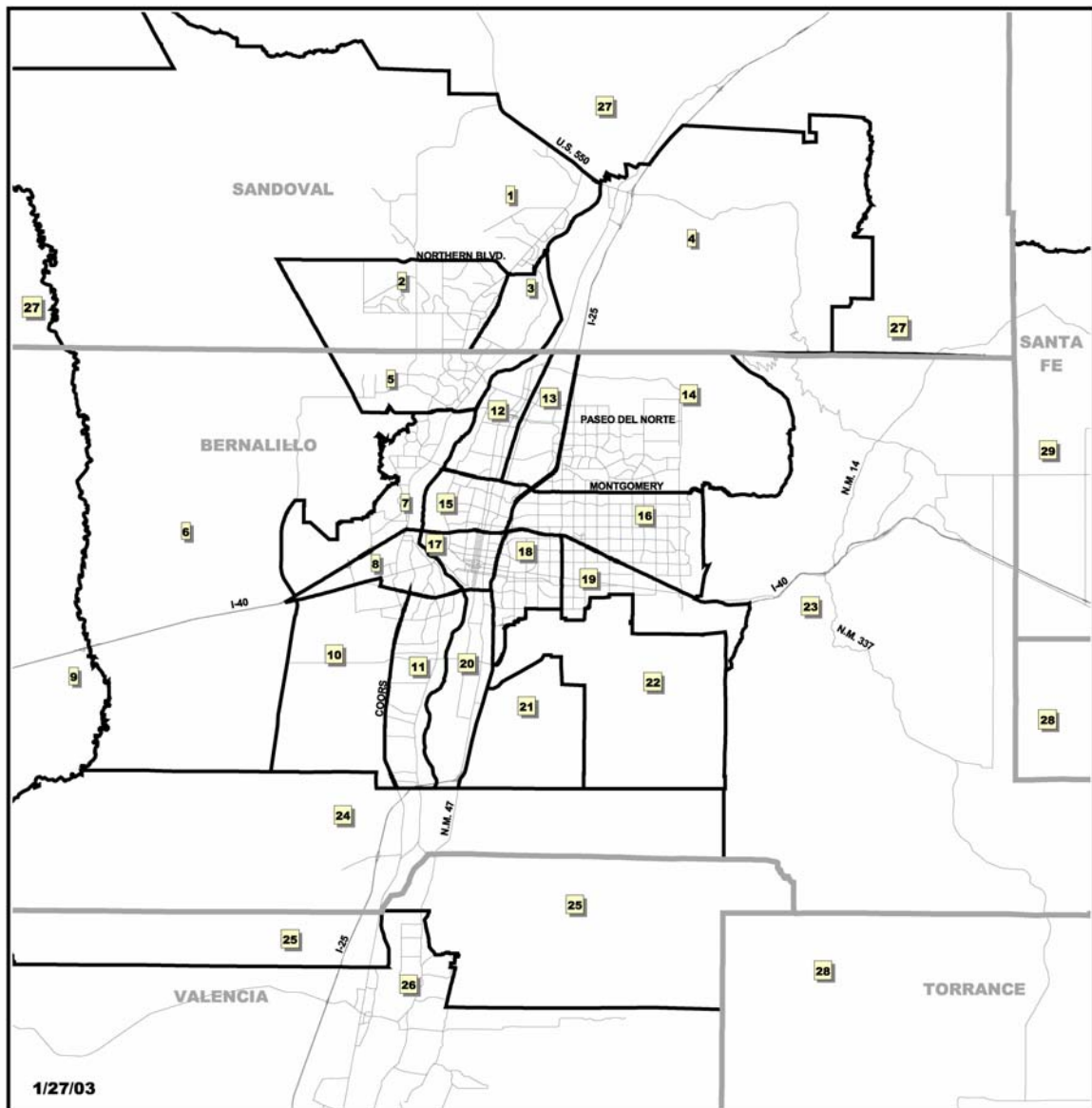


Figure 12

22 Subarea Identification Number

Subareas of the MRCOG Region



**Mid-Region
Council of Governments**
317 Commercial NE, Suite 104
Albuquerque, NM 87102
505-247-1750

Subarea boundaries extend to county boundary
where full extent of subarea not shown except for Subarea 29
which only includes southern Santa Fe County.

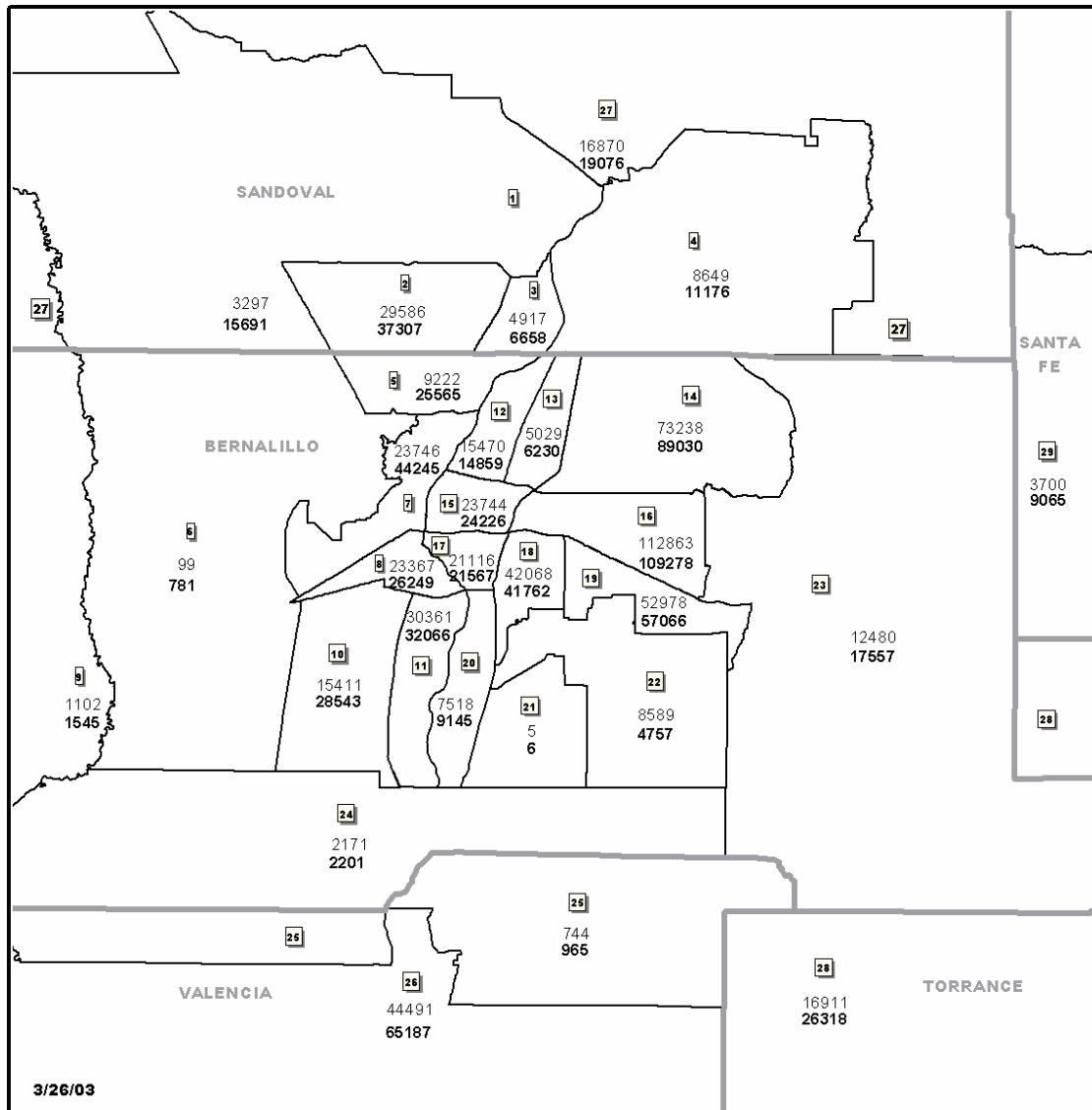


Figure 13

Total for MRCOG Region:
 1990 = 603,116
 2000 = 738,714

22 Subarea Number
4420 1990 Population
5500 2000 Population

**Population Growth by Subarea
 1990 to 2000**



Subarea boundaries extend to county boundary where full extent of subarea not shown except for Subarea 29 which only includes southern Santa Fe County.

Sources: U.S. Bureau of the Census.

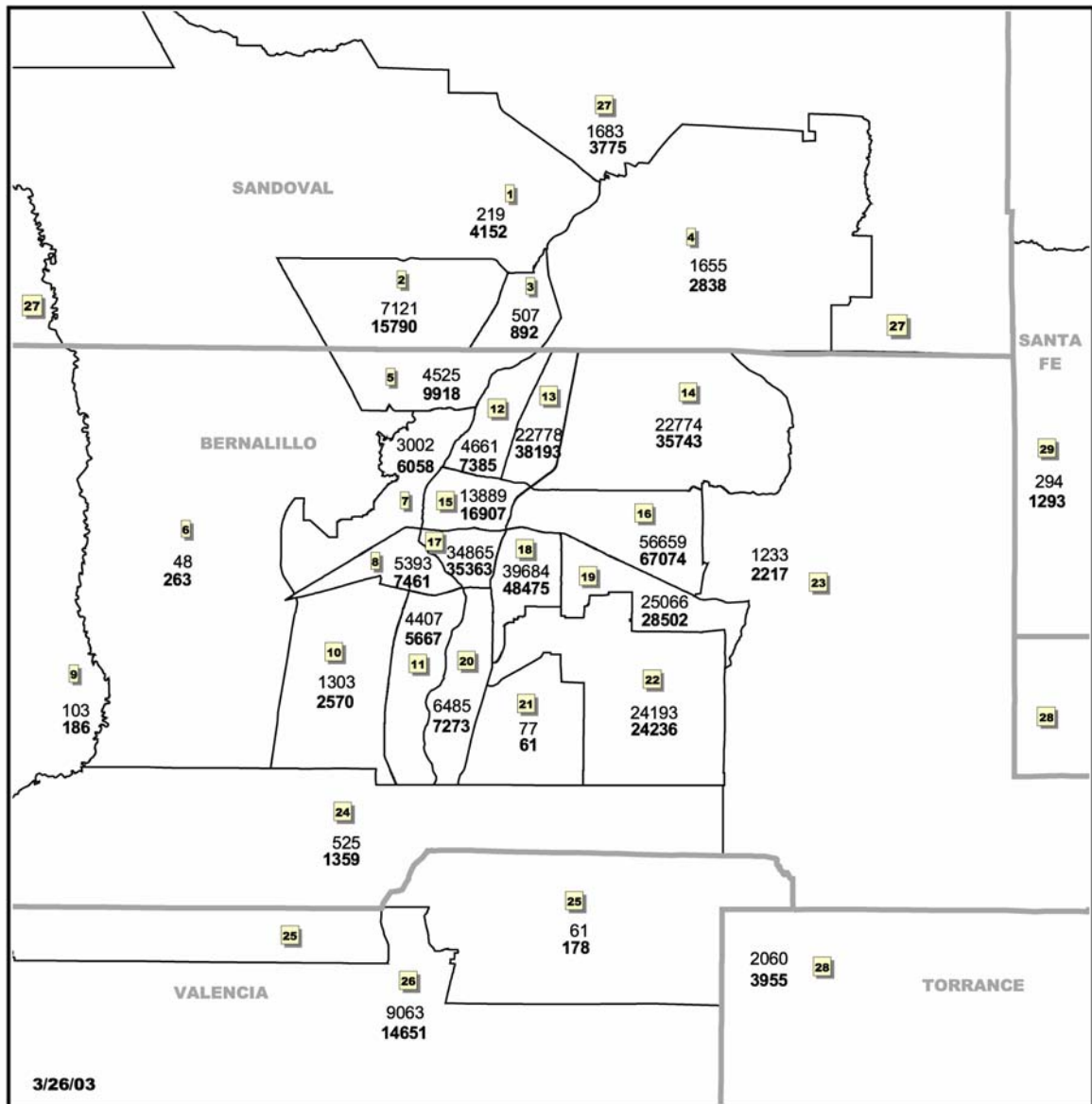


Figure 14

Total for MRCOG Region:
 1990 = 294,333
 2000 = 392,435

22 Subarea Number
4420 1990 Employment
5500 2000 Employment

Employment Growth by Subarea 1990 to 2000

Note: See text for discussion of definition of employment.
 1990 estimates differ from some previous publications
 due to a change in the definition.

Subarea boundaries extend to county boundary
 where full extent of subarea not shown except for Subarea 29
 which only includes southern Santa Fe County.

Source: NM Dept. of Labor and MRCOG.

